

## **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **O.C. FISHER LAKE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS**

**Description of Action.** The purpose of this Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to assess the potential environmental effects from the change in project implementation regarding the reduction of the mesquite on the project to more natural and historical level and detailing the potential impacts that may occur as a result of those changes. With the exception of the points described in this SEA, the original EA accurately represents: the project's purpose and need; the analyses of the project's design alternatives, including the alternative of no action and the preferred alternative, and the potential environmental impacts associated with each alternative. The proposed change to project implementation would be to use helicopter aerial herbicide application for Mesquite control rather than the mechanical means of excavation and extraction outlined in the original EA.

**Anticipated Environmental Effects.** This proposed change in project implementation will have positive environmental effects on Cultural Resources and soils located on project lands. Due to the change there will be no ground disturbing activities associated with the Mesquite removal which will protect the potential cultural resource sites and negate the SHPO requirement to perform a ground survey on the 2,455 acre area with medium to high potential to contain cultural resource sites. Also the lack of ground disturbing activities will limit the amount of exposed bare soil from mechanical removal methods which would decrease the potential for soil erosion. The potential for negative environmental effects from vapor drift of herbicide to adjacent private property will be mitigated through the use a helicopter for aerial herbicide application, strict adherence to required atmospheric conditions for spraying prior to herbicide application and creation of a 100 ft. buffer strip between areas to be treated and adjacent private property.

**Facts and Conclusions.** Based on a review of the information contained in the Original EA and this SEA it is concluded that the change in project implementation from mechanical removal of Mesquite to helicopter aerial application of herbicide for Mesquite removal is not a major Federal action, which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

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Richard J. Muraski, Jr.  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer